

Caboose Discussion Discussed. Caboose Not Discussed.

24 Aug 1988

Although the subject of the little red caboose on Main Street was added to last week's agenda for discussion by the Heber City Council, Mayor Gordon Mendenhall refused to allow any discussion about it.

He said he has personally prepared, typed and approved all the agendas since he became mayor, one and one half years ago, and that they are reviewed by City Recorder Eleanor Nelsen and Deputy Recorder Shauna Breton.

"When the time comes, if there are any changes, Eleanor says, 'I need to add this, or I need to add that,' and we agree upon it...I kind of resent people coming in and putting stuff on the agenda without my permission. I have no time to prepare to discuss them. I have no

background information. Furthermore, it came in after the publication date of the agenda," Mayor Mendenhall said.

The caboose, used as an information center by the Heber Valley Chamber of Commerce, has been the subject of controversy for several months, dividing both the council and their constituents. Mayor Mendenhall has made it clear he wants the car removed from Tabernacle Square, where it has stood for more than a decade, calling it an "eyesore" and saying it detracts from the new city municipal building. The Chamber has defended leaving it on the premises as an important promotion for local businesses, particularly for tourist

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Don →

Caboose...

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information and representing the

Heber Creeper.

In a July meeting, the city

council voted three to two against

giving the Chamber 14 days to

move the caboose or charging the

Chamber for the city to move it.

However, on August 10th, the

Chamber and other interested parties

were notified by the city attorney

that it must be moved within 14

days or they would be guilty of un-

lawful detainer and liable for treble

damages.

Mayor Mendenhall discarded the

agenda that included the caboose and

that had been distributed for last

Thursday's meeting. Then he had

copies made of an agenda that

omitted the caboose and said coun-

cil would use it instead.

"Unless things get in so that I

can take a look at them, and ap-

prove them before we publish (the

agenda) it's not going to happen."

The maps clearly identifies every

telling in the Wallsburg area.

ey will be put in all vehicles in

Sheriff's Department, fire trucks

and ambulances, to help reduce re-

sponse time to the rural commu-

nity.

"I'll go along with the changes,

but I want to know about them,"

the mayor said. "If somebody wants

something on there, they have the

responsibility to come and tell me.

"Phooey! 95 percent of the stuff

that's on that agenda, the council

doesn't have time to prepare for,

and have them put it on. I'm just

not going to play that kind of

game. They've played too many

games on me and I'm not going to

have that again...I'm not going to

have you slip a curve on me, like

you did the last time, and expect me

to be prepared."

At that point another citizen

asked if she was on the agenda.

When the mayor told her she wasn't

she requested permission to read an

item to the council and the mayor

said she could.

Then, he stopped her, apologiz-

ing, and referred to the discussion

that had just taken place. He said he

knew that if he allowed her to

ask, Mr. Mawhinney would again

press him for time to speak. He

asked her to get on the agenda for

the next meeting.

Councilman Jacobson said,

"Those are the ground rules...if

that's the way you want to play the

game...I've seen things that were

discussed, that weren't on agendas,

and you've said, 'Well, that's okay,

I'll let you discuss it.' Then, the

He said Mr. Mawhinney had told

him that Mayor Mendenhall had

said he could support moving the

caboose to the city park. At least

four of the councilmen knew about

the possibility, and that the issue

needed to be discussed, he said. So,

on Tuesday evening, two days be-

fore the council meeting, he said he

added the caboose to the agenda

posted at the city municipal build-

ing.

He said that as far as he knew,

no policy has ever been adopted by

the city that would prevent him

from adding to the agenda without

permission from the mayor.

"When I heard about the meeting

I was infuriated, to think one per-

son could arbitrarily take something

off an agenda like that, because he

didn't authorize it. I couldn't believe

that," he said.

Commenting on Mayor

Mendenhall's statement that he

needed time to prepare for agenda

items, Councilman Wright said,

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The paperwork in his department

now three months behind, and

itions from the U.S. Department

Wildlife and State Parks and

creation are not being done at all.

said because the paperwork can't

completed, warrants aren't is-

d, and justice isn't served. In ad-

dition, he pointed out, there is a lot

revenue from fines that isn't be-

collected.

Scout Presents

Wallsburg Maps

Steve Mecham presented maps

Wallsburg to the Commission,

marily for use by emergency

sonnel, as a public service pro-

ject to earn his Boy Scout life

award. He said he earned the money

make the maps by baling hay for

grandfather.

"You put more work into that

than I've seen in most Eagle pro-

jects," Commissioner Larry Duke

commented.

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